
From: Ann Smith [asmith@afcampa.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 2:43 PM
To: AppropriationTestimony
Subject: Fwd: HB 5016 OPA (Re-sending)

----- Forwarded message from asmith@afcampa.org -----

Date: Thu, 08 Mar 2012 13:49:32 -0500
From: Ann Smith <asmith@afcampa.org>
Reply-To: Ann Smith <asmith@afcampa.org>
Subject: HB 5016 OPA
To: apptestimo@cga.ct.gov

African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities, Inc. (AFCAMP) opposes the merger of the Office of Protection and Advocacy (OPA) with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or any other agency. The role that OPA plays as an independent advocate for persons with disabilities would be irreparably compromised by the proposed merger with CHRO. AFCAMP is an organization that grew out of the commitment of OPA to serving persons with disabilities who live in the poor urban communities and who have cultural and linguistic barriers to accessing advocacy services. OPA plays a critical role in protecting the rights of those among us who face tremendous challenges to living their life with dignity and whose voices go unheard, are misunderstood or are ignored. OPA has a federal mandate to protect the rights of persons with disabilities of all types regardless of cultural persuasion and socioeconomic status. Connecticut's citizens with disabilities cannot afford to lose the independent voice of OPA.

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